

Message Text

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47

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 COME-00

DRC-01 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-10 TRSE-00 AID-20 STR-08 /164 W

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R 180858Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7557

UNCLAS MADRID 7473

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, SP

SUBJECT: FEED GRAINS

FOLLOWING THE CABINET MEETING HELD AT EL PARDO ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE WHICH INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING ITEM CONCERNING AGRICULTURE:

"IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABNORMAL AND PERSISTENTLY SHORT SUPPLY SITUATION IN WORLD MARKETS , AGGRAVATED IN OUR OWN CASE BY DROUGHT, THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESOLVED TO ACT WITH THE GREATEST ENERGY TO PROTECT THE EXPANSION OF OUR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY GUARANTEEING FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES AND PRICE STABILITY THERETO. AS A FIRST STEP IN THIS DIRECTION (THE GOVERNMENT) HAS AGREED TO BUY SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF FEED GRAINS, MAINLY CORN. WITH THESE PURCHASES (SPAIN) WILL BUILD UP PERMANENT STOCKS WHICH WILL SERVE TO GUARANTEE TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS AN ABUNDANT AND CONSTANT SUPPLY AS WELL AS THE STABILITY OF (FEED GRAIN) PRICES, SUPPLEMENTING, IN NECESSARY, PRIVATE SOURCES OF SUPPLY. THIS MEASURE WILL BE COMPLEMENTED BY OTHER ACTIONS".

COMMENT - THE ANNOUNCEMENT REFLECTS THE GOS SERIOUS
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CONCERN OVER SOARING DOMESTIC FEED GRAIN PRICES AND

SHORTAGES AGGRAVATED BY DROUGHT. AS TO PURCHASES, GOS HAS BEEN BUYING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF CORN IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS TO UNDERLINE THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION. LEADING GRAIN DEALERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO MEET WITH GOS OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES DECEMBER 18 PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS ACTUAL SCOPE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT.
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